

WEATHER.

Fair tonight and probably tomorrow; warmer tonight; gentle to moderate southerly winds.
Temperature for twenty-four hours ending 2 p.m.: Highest, 56, at 2 p.m.; today, lowest, 56, at 8:30 a.m. today.
Full report on page 20.

CLOSING NEW YORK STOCKS PAGE 20.

No. 20,329.

WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1916—TWENTY-FOUR PAGES.

ONE CENT.

PLAN FAIR TO ALL, SOLE PEACE BASIS

President Thinks a Neutral
Could Act Only With That
Understanding.

HOLDS WORLD HAS STAKE
DUE TO BE CONSIDERED

White House Callers Gather Impres-
sion Early Move by U. S.
Is Unlikely.

President Wilson told callers today that the intervention of a neutral in behalf of peace in Europe could rest only on a mutual understanding by the belligerents that terms to be arranged are to conserve the interests of all, and of the world at large, rather than those of a particular nation or group of nations among the warring powers.

Mr. Wilson did not disclose any definite plan of action he may have formulated in regard to peace nor authorize a formal statement of his attitude. His callers gained an impression, however, that the President would entertain suggestions that he extend his good offices to the belligerents to bring about peace only when the conditions he outlined were likely of fulfillment.

Forecast of Speech.

Those who discussed the general subject of peace with Mr. Wilson contended that he was probably forecasting to some extent what he will say here later in the week, addressing the League to Enforce Peace. The impression has obtained in official circles that his remarks at that time would have an important bearing on the peace discussions recently at Berlin and London, as well as in the American press.

Mr. Wilson pointed out to his callers that the elements in the situation in Europe, all of which must be taken into account in consideration of peace proposals while he is in England and London, as well as in the American press.

Mr. Hensley Talks Peace.

Representative Hensley of Missouri discussed with Mr. Wilson his amendment to the naval bill, adopted by the naval committee, authorizing the President to invite other nations to participate in a conference at the close of the war with the object of setting up a court or other tribunal to settle international disputes.

Mr. Hensley told the President that he believed this amendment made the naval bill an assurance to foreign nations that the United States was aiming for defense only, not for any offensive purpose, and was ready to enter into an agreement to settle international disputes amicably.

The President did not commit himself definitely to the amendment, but he was favorable to the general principles involved.

Hoped of the Future.

While Mr. Hensley would not reveal details of his conversation with the President, he said he wished the people generally could realize the thoughts in the President's mind in considering peace, and the many questions bearing on it which he is considering.

Mr. Hensley left the White House satisfied that the President would do everything possible to bring about peace in Europe and to maintain it after the end of the war.

Mr. Hensley said that he believed the people of the United States generally were looking to the President to play an important part in minimizing the danger of war in the future. He told the President he saw no reason why the time should not come when an international court would have the same standing as the United States Supreme Court and when its decisions would be respected in the same way.

Italian Ship Is Sunk.

LONDON, May 25.—The Italian ship *Orealla* has been sunk off Barcelona, according to Lloyd's. She was a three-masted ship of 1,676 tons and was built in 1882. Her home port was Naples.

Bailey Again Is in Politics.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., May 25.—Judge William P. Bailey, of Cleburne, was elected democratic national committee member for Texas at the closing session here late yesterday of the state convention of the party. The section of the party headed by Gov. James E. Ferguson and Joseph W. Bailey, former United States senator, called the convention. Mr. Bailey's participation in the convention was regarded as signifying his re-entrance into active politics.

United Presbyterians Meet.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, May 25.—Delegates to the fifty-eighth general assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America opened their annual session last night in the First United Presbyterian Church with the election of Rev. W. B. Smiley of Oneonta, N. Y., as moderator.

Evelyn Nesbit Thaw Weds.

NEW YORK, May 25.—Evelyn Nesbit Thaw, divorced by Harry K. Thaw last month, and Jack Clifford, her dancer partner, returned here last night after a hasty trip to Baltimore and Maryland that they had been married in Maryland.

Hearings at Once on Ship Bill.

The Senate commerce committee today appointed a subcommittee consisting of Senators Simmons, Fletcher, Blackburn, Jones and Lippitt to hold hearings on the administration ship purchase bill. The subcommittee will hear interested persons who wish to appear, but will not ask any one to come before it. Hearings will begin at once and a report will be made to the full committee as promptly as possible.

GERMANS GAINING VERDUN BATTLE

Secure Footing in French
Trenches Near Haudremont
in Night Attack.

PARIS ADMITS ENEMY
SUCCESS AT DOUAUMONT

Tenton Advance in Past Month
Averages Depth of 300 Meters,
Maps Show.

LONDON, May 25.—German troops made an attack last night on French positions on the Verdun front west of the Meuse, near the Haudremont quarry, and obtained a footing in one of the French trenches, the French war office announced today. East of Cumieres, to the west of the Meuse, the French made some progress in hand-grenade fighting.

The repulse of three counter attacks by the French on the village of Cumieres, to the west of the Meuse, on the Verdun front, was announced by the German war office today. The capture of additional French trenches southwest and south of Fort Douaumont, and the recapture of the Haudremont quarry by the Germans are also reported. All day attacks by the French on the German lines in the Gaillette sector, southwest of Fort Douaumont, in which the French met with severe losses, were beaten off by the Germans, according to Berlin, and more than 850 prisoners and fourteen machine guns were captured.

The Germans have recaptured Fort Douaumont, while the French hold the immediate approach to that position. This was made in the official communication issued by the French war office last night, which says that two new divisions of Bavarians effected the recapture after a series of furious attacks.

Germans in Ascendancy.
The tide of battle at Verdun has been against the French during the last twenty-four hours. The Germans, rallying from the smashing blows which took from them the greater part of Fort Douaumont, hurled their legions against the ruins which remain by courtesy of the title of fort, and by lavish expenditure of force succeeded in partially retrieving the ground they had lost on the right bank of the Meuse.

Military opinion in Paris is not greatly concerned over the result of the day's fighting. Such incidents are regarded as inevitable in the strategy of action and reaction upon which the stubborn defense of Verdun is based. The aim of the defenders is to find the greatest possible loss upon the enemy with the least possible cost to themselves. French counter attacks are expected to restore the situation in favor of the republic.

Advantage at Cumieres.
The occupation of the village of Cumieres gives the Germans a slight advantage, as to a certain extent it commands the French later communications. However, the village is so well covered by the French artillery that the Germans will be unable to profit to any great extent by its possession.

Inspection made by French military authorities of maps of the Verdun region shows that within the last month German gains on the west bank of the Meuse from Cumieres to Avocourt average a depth of 300 meters. The line eastward from the river is substantially the same as it was a month ago.

French Statement.
The text of the French statement of today follows:
"On the left bank of the River Meuse there has been an artillery duel of considerable intensity in the sector of Hill 204, as well as on the front between Dead Man hill and Cumieres. The French made no endeavor to attack us."

"On the right bank of the river a strong German attack was successful in taking the French a few enemy communications. The bombardment is continuing with great severity on both sides. In the region of Douaumont there has been no infantry activity. The high pressure is relative quiet on the remainder of the front."

German Official Report.

The text of today's German army headquarters statement follows:
"German airmen attacked British torpedo boats and patrol boats off the Flanders coast."
"West of the Meuse three enemy counter attacks against the village of Cumieres failed."

"To the west of the Meuse our regiments, taking advantage of the successes of the day before yesterday, advanced further and captured the French trenches southwest and south of Fort Douaumont. We recaptured the quarry south of the Gaillette farm."

"The enemy suffered very heavy losses in the region of Douaumont. We captured more than 850 prisoners and fourteen machine guns."
"An enemy airplane was shot down near St. Souplet and another over Haudremont."

Gift to Chicago University.

CHICAGO, May 25.—A gift of a business building in Chicago's downtown district valued at \$2,500,000 has been made to the University of Chicago by Hobart Williams of Chicago, Conn. A few days ago Mr. Williams announced a gift of \$2,000,000 to ten Illinois educational and charitable institutions.

Italy's Premier To Go to London.

ROME, May 24, via Paris, May 25.—It is stated on good authority that Premier Salandra and Foreign Minister Sonnino will leave shortly for London to return the visit of Premier Asquith to Rome.

GERMANY IS READY FOR PEACE TENDERS

Willing to Accept President
Wilson's Good Offices in
Mediation.

ONLY THE HOTSPURS
ARE OPPOSING HIM

Nation Does Not Wish Formally to
Accept, Then Later Be
Spurned by Allies.

BERLIN, May 24, via London, May 25 (delayed).—A wireless dispatch from the United States, giving the substance of President Wilson's speech at Charlotte, N. C., in which he referred to the possibility of American mediation in the war, is given the place of honor in the morning papers. The afternoon editions return to the subject, and their comments, together with the wide interest shown by the German public, show how important this news is regarded here.

Though definitely stated nowhere, there is little doubt that Germany is willing to consider a tender of good offices to inaugurate peace negotiations. The former attitude in the highest quarters that America had disqualified herself as a peace mediator on account of her shipments of munitions to the allies has now changed. If President Wilson can hold out any tangible possibilities that peace may result through his mediation, Germany undoubtedly will be willing to consider such suggestions as he may offer.

One Condition Cited.

This receptive attitude is naturally subject to the condition that Germany is not jockeyed into a position of announcing her readiness to accept President Wilson's good offices, only to find the allies later rejecting the tender and asserting that Germany is suing for peace. There is equally no doubt that the great masses of the people aside from the professional hotspurs in the news offices would be willing to see America in the role of peace intermediary despite the persistent bitterness against England and France. As a matter of fact little is heard nowadays, either from the general public or from the press, on the subject of American shipments of arms. The question seems to have been submerged by other problems existing which are of more immediate importance to the nation.

Bitter Feeling Shown.
President Wilson's declaration cannot be said, however, to have made a good impression in Germany, as far as the so-called "armor plate" newspapers, like the *Tages Zeitung* and the *Tagliche Rundschau*, are concerned. Other chauvinist organs take occasion to remember President Wilson with bitter and uncompromising phrases, and even a moderate paper like the *Local Anzeiger* declares that the President should first demonstrate the impartiality of his neutrality by making good his demand for respect for American rights against England and France. Then have an excellent chance, says this paper, of succeeding in his peace mission, as least as far as Germany is concerned.

The rumors of mediation have affected the market for "war babies," which have been generally well dropped lower still on reports that America and other neutral countries were contemplating a tender of their good offices as peace mediators. At the same time, however, such as shipping and colonial securities, are in strong demand.

Negotiations for Peace Not Now Possible, Says Grey, Answering Attack
LONDON, May 25.—In an impromptu speech in the house of commons last night on the question of peace, a subject unexpectedly raised by Arthur Ponsonby, liberal member for Stirling, Scotland, in a strong address attacking the government for allowing diplomatic etiquette to stand in the way of possible peace negotiations, Sir Edward Grey, the British foreign secretary, set aside all ideas that peace negotiations were possible at the present stage and plainly reiterated that the position of the allies was in no way changed.

Sir Edward declared that it was impossible to consider terms of peace without a preliminary agreement between the entente allies. Further, he expressed the decided opinion that the hostilities of the war must reach a stage where it was possible to talk of peace, especially as the German public was constantly being "fed with lies" by their ministers.

Would Not Prolong War.

Mr. Ponsonby argued in favor of countenancing peace possibilities and against prolonging the war merely for the sake of obligations to Great Britain and the allies, and if there were no essential differences between Germany and Great Britain and no such obligations the government ought to take the earliest opportunity to press for a termination of the war.

Sir Edward Grey, in replying, pointed out that his interview contained no review of the progress of the war, but was a statement of his own opinion as to what he thought the German government or German public had reached the point where the allied governments could bring a peace compatible with their desires nearer by making speeches about peace, he would make dozens of them. But the foreign minister added that time has not yet arrived, and the allies were bound by common obligations not to put forward any terms of peace except by mutual agreement.

Attacks British Diplomacy.

Mr. Ponsonby strongly attacked the government's diplomacy. He said the peace of Europe would depend on the capacity of statesmen for surveying the great problems in a broad spirit. The insularity which had characterized British diplomacy in the past constituted the real danger.



REPORT CHANGE IN PRESIDENT'S FAVOR

Friends of Mr. Wilson Discuss
Political Sentiment in
Eastern States.

That there has been a wonderful change of sentiment toward President Wilson in New York, New Jersey and eastern states generally—this was the information developed in New York in the last few days among the political generals gathered there, according to intimate friends of the President who have just returned from that city.

President Wilson did not confer with New York or other politicians while in that city yesterday to attend the wedding of Dr. Grayson and Miss Gordon, but it is known that one of the President's closest friends and advisers who was in that city for several days has sent word to the President that New York will be for him in November after a long period of hostility toward him.

It develops from this source of information that Charles Murphy, leader of Tammany, has passed word among the organization democrats from the Chicago convention, that they maintain that Wilson will carry New York and will succeed himself in the White House, regardless of what anybody does against him or whom the republicans nominate to oppose him.

Tammany to Back Him.
The democrats of the Murphy type have been studying political conditions generally, it was said today, and have passed the word that President Wilson is in one of those enviable positions that mean almost sure election and they are prepared to back him as winner with large wagers if they can find any.

These democrats have discounted the nomination of either Roosevelt or Hughes at Chicago. Right now they are looking for the progress of the President Wilson at the top of another emotional wave that may carry him to victory in the Chicago convention, and they maintain that if he fails with the republicans he will again have himself nominated by the progress for the presidency, putting three presidential tickets in the field and re-electing Wilson.

President Wilson's friends today represented him as showing great concern that the republicans will do at Chicago. He is making no inquiries as to probabilities in the newspapers. According to his friends all they are looking for is a tendency look alike to him and he is ready to meet any and all comers, satisfied with the strength of his standing with the country.

President Wilson Is Indorsed.

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M., May 25.—Resolutions adopted at the state democratic convention here late last night approved President Wilson's success in "guarding the honor and just interests of America" at the same time keeping the country out of the European war and "his wise foresight in handling the Mexican situation." Twelve district delegates, each with half a vote, were selected.

Three Vessels Reported Sunk.

BARCELONA, Spain, May 25.—The Russian bark *Regina* has been sunk by a submarine. Her captain and crew have arrived here. The captain states that near Barcelona he met two lifeboats containing the crews of two Italian sailing vessels, both of which were sunk by the same Austrian submarine.

Grave Anxiety for Gen. Gallieni.

PARIS, May 25.—The condition of Gen. Gallieni, former minister of war, has suddenly grown worse and grave anxiety is felt as to his chances of recovery. Gen. Gallieni resigned as minister of war March 16, on account of ill-health. He underwent a second operation for kidney trouble on May 18 and was then reported to be rapidly recovering.

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PREMIER ASQUITH MAKES STATEMENT ON IRELAND

Large Crowd Hears Discussion in
the House of Commons.

LONDON, May 25, 4:01 p.m.—A large, expectant crowd of members and the general public had assembled in the house of commons when, shortly before 3 o'clock this afternoon, Premier Asquith rose to make his statement on Irish affairs.

Although it was generally understood that the prime minister would not go into the conversations which were taking place between the members of the government and the Irish leaders, as they had not advanced far enough to be made public, he started by expressing the hope that the disappearance of martial law would be speedy and complete.

Referring to the sacrifices that Irishmen had made in behalf of the British empire during the present war, Mr. Asquith said:
"Could we who represent Great Britain or could they who represent Ireland tolerate the prospect that when they are called upon to make sacrifices for our joint efforts and sacrifices, as we have hoped and believed we should, they should be arrayed against one another in the most tragic and most degrading of all conflicts—intercommunal domestic strife."

WOULD LOCATE FEDERAL NITRATE PLANT IN WEST

Senators Johnson and Sterling and Representatives Gandy and Dillon of South Dakota today conferred with President Wilson about the advantages of the Big Bend or Little Bend portions of the Missouri river as a site for the \$20,000,000 nitrate plant provided for in the army bill that the President is to sign shortly.

The President carefully drawn maps of these great power sections of the Missouri, with arguments concerning each proposed site.

The President is going to be besieged by different localities as to the erection of the proposed plant, but he will probably turn the whole thing over to a commission which he will appoint to investigate the entire question. The bill provides that the President shall name a commission to investigate the subject of the best method of securing nitrate and to determine where such a plant should be located. He will do nothing until this commission, soon to be appointed, is named and reports to him.

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RIGGS BANK CASE NOW BEING ARGUED

Defense Rests in Trial of Officials Whom U. S. Charges
With Perjury.

COURT IS ENLIVENED
BY HOGAN AND FITTS

Cross-Examination of Attorney
Brings Out Animosity Between the Men.

The defense, at 10:45 o'clock today, suddenly announced that it had no further evidence to present in the trial of past and present Riggs National Bank officials who are accused by the government of perjury in swearing that the bank did not deal in stocks, and counsel for Charles C. Glover, William J. Flather and Henry H. Flather, the accused, rested their case in the midst of circumstances as spectacular as they could well be in a court of justice, and following the use of language which is rarely heard in a courtroom.

Frank J. Hogan, a leading member of counsel for the defense, who had been placed on the stand as the last witness for the defense, was driven under a cross-examination by William C. Fitts, assistant to the Attorney General—great animosity between the two men having been constantly in evidence during the trial—characterized what he said was the action of the Department of Justice in bringing about the indictment of Mr. Glover and the Messrs. Flather as outrageous, and at another point, when Mr. Fitts asked him if he was apprehensive that he would be indicted on a charge of subornation of perjury, he answered that with the case, he exclaimed that he had heard remarks to the effect that he at one time was about to be indicted, but that he "would have seen the district attorney's office in hell before he would go to them and ask any favors of them."

Bad Feeling Plainly Shown.

The bad feeling between the two men seethed and bubbled over, again and again, until at one point Justice Siders intervened and said to Mr. Fitts:
"You are going far beyond the limits of any cross-examination, and Mr. Darlington, senior counsel for the defense, arose in his place and stated:
"In the interest of this court, of which I have been a member for many years, I submit that the further conduct of this cross-examination should not be made the vehicle of personal malignity."

Threatens to Clear Court.

Justice Siders threatened again and again to clear the courtroom and called the United States marshal up and instructed him if he saw another demonstration such as arose in the way of laughter or comment while Mr. Hogan was on the stand to remove the spectators from the room. The court was crowded with lawyers and others, gathered to witness the verbal battle between Mr. Hogan and Mr. Fitts, and frequently when Mr. Hogan was on the stand and begged for the witness stand and begged for the witness stand and begged for the witness stand.

"Please do not interrupt us," Mr. Fitts made every effort to keep the questions, apparently, an occasion for elaborating points that he wished the jury to take in, and when Mr. Hogan frequently to the twelve men in the jury box, occasionally interjecting such remarks as "I have asked you whether you do or not." Justice Siders at one point, in answer to objections by the government, asked Mr. Hogan to avoid weaving arguments into his replies to the cross-examination, and again Mr. Hogan pointed out that it was necessary for him to explain his answers.

The defense exactly thought that Mr. Hogan had made such an exceptionally good witness from his point of view, in view of the fact that today's testimony did not explain to the jury again and again that the sole responsibility for the indictment was caused by the defense, and that the defense did not place on the stand either Mr. Glover or the Messrs. Flather, and as soon as Mr. Fitts rested his case the court sent the jury out of the room and formal motions and prayers were begun by counsel for the defense.

May Go to Jury Tomorrow.

It was said informally in the courtroom today that the case may go to the jury by tomorrow night, as it is not expected, some of the lawyers said today, that more than three hours will be necessary for each side in the presentation of arguments. "It is not known, of course, how long Justice Siders will require for his charge to the jury, but if there is an expedition this afternoon and tomorrow that seems to be the present prospect in the case the jury may be sent out by tomorrow night, as it is not expected, some of the lawyers said today, that more than three hours will be necessary for each side in the presentation of arguments. 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